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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for a position in the Byrne Wallace traineeship programme commencing in 2019. I am convinced that the opportunities for professional training and growth offered in the structured manner of your firm will be invaluable in taking my career to the next step. Furthermore, I know my experiences in international academics, various previous employment roles, voluntary and extracurricular work would make me a strong addition to the intake.

I am currently studying a masters in ‘Human Rights and Criminal Justice’ in Queens University, Belfast. I recently graduated from University College Dublin, with a 2.1 in ‘Law with Social Justice.’ As can be seen from examining my CV, I have a long history of small group work and learning in both my voluntary and employed capacities. My work in the ‘Meitheal’ programme trained me to maintain positive dispositions with teammates, regardless of the situation, in order to ensure results. This has been added to by years of work in customer service, as well as my work within a solicitor’s office, to make me an able communicator. I am a hardworking and determined person and I feel this is demonstrated by achieving a bronze, silver and gold Gaisce award, presented to me by President Michael D Higgins. I have more than just polished and measured presentation skills gained from my pursuits in public speaking and moot court competitions, I have a refined approach to interpersonal situations. In my experience active listening, as well as awareness of non-verbal cues, are extremely important skills in teamwork. As a member of the firm I would bring a level-headed aptitude for problem solving in interpersonal settings with clients and colleagues built upon these foundations.

My professional interests in commercial law are broad, and built on experience and study. In particular, my initial study of company law raised my interest in directors’ duties and corporate governance. This study was added to by my personal work with the local branch of St. Vincent De Paul. Recognising that charities can struggle to comprehend their legal obligations and relevant structures, I have long desired to undergo sufficient professional training to be able to serve as a professional advisor with regard to this. Understanding the complexities of the law, and proficiently communicating it to such parties, would be of particular interest to me, and I believe I would gain a lot from work within the Byrne Wallace corporate department.

My interests in the law were broadened considerably when I was selected to study abroad for my third year in the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Being taken out of my comfort zone and challenged by the considerably more research based institution had a profound impact on my education. Having always had an internationally focused mind through my work with ‘Help Refugees’ and my employment in Santa Barbara, California, for the Summer of 2015, I was drawn to research on private international law and international business law. These fields continues to intrigue me, particularly in the wake of Brexit. An understanding of the nature of the regulated market of the EU is likely to continue to be integral to international business. This personal interest of mine, is addressed in much of the practice areas of Byrne Wallace.

Overall, I believe you will find me to be a career focused and professional addition to your firm should you choose to offer me a traineeship. In exchange I promise to undertake extensive learning commitments to improve my knowledge base and practical skills such as litigation and legal drafting.

Yours Faithfully,

Emer Bennett